



Bengaluru Handbook
Version 1.1

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Welcome Note

The Team at Swissnex in India



Swissnex in India is a public-private entity that connects the dots in education, research and innovation between Swiss and Indian stakeholders. Swissnex is present in some of the world's most innovative regions, with Bengaluru being one of them. Its objective is to support the active engagement of stakeholders and the international exchange of knowledge.

The team at Swissnex is very diverse, with each member having a unique skill set and knowledge base. And they come from a wide range of backgrounds, including but not limited to medical sciences, policy-making, sustainable energy, engineering, urban architecture, technology, communications, hospitality and more. This group of not only competent but also very distinct individuals have come together to co-create this handbook. So you can rest assured that there's something for everybody here.

Intro to Bengaluru



Welcome to Namma Ooru Bengaluru! 'Namma Ooru' translates to our home and is fondly used by people and organizations when they relate to the city. Nicknamed the Silicon Valley of India, a Garden city and Pensioner's paradise in its older days, Bengaluru is now one of India's biggest Metropolitan and most livable cities. The people walking on the streets, the nightlife in the city, and the background noise of its mad traffic give this city an energetic and busy vibe. This might seem pretty daunting at first, especially in contrast to Switzerland's relatively quiet and calm life. However, if you open your mind and embrace the city with all it offers, we believe you will certainly have a good and inspiring time. With that spirit, once again, welcome to 'incredible India'.

Bengaluru has a rich academic offering. The Bengaluru Life Science Cluster houses India's leading institutes in fundamental life science research, applied stem cell research and innovation. The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) is one of the premier institutes for advanced scientific and technological research, with over 3,500 students. CV Raman, one of India's most eminent scientific personalities, had served as its first Indian director. ATREE and the Azim

Premji University round up the research and education portfolio regarding ecology, social sciences and sustainability. These are, of course, just a few examples of the many Universities and institutions in the city. Infosys, SwissRe, Buhler, Schindler, Swatch group, and other Indian and Swiss companies have a significant presence in Bengaluru and in case you didn't know, Bengaluru is also India's EdTech hub with around 39 Unicorns, which make up more than one-third of India's Unicorn count.

The history of this city dates back to the 16th century, when Kempe Gowda I, the son of a powerful chieftain from Yelahanka, laid the first foundation stone for modern Bengaluru. It has had many nicknames over the years, some pretty self-explanatory like the Garden city of India or the Pub city, while its other nicknames have a unique story attached to them. 'Bendakaluru', the town of boiled beans, is one of those exclusive nicknames. Legend has it that a famous king once went astray during one of his hunting expeditions and stumbled upon a dwelling with an old woman. At the time, it was customary to serve boiled beans to guests and visitors. Contented by the hospitality he received and the delicious boiled beans, the king named the place Bendakaluru or the city of boiled beans.

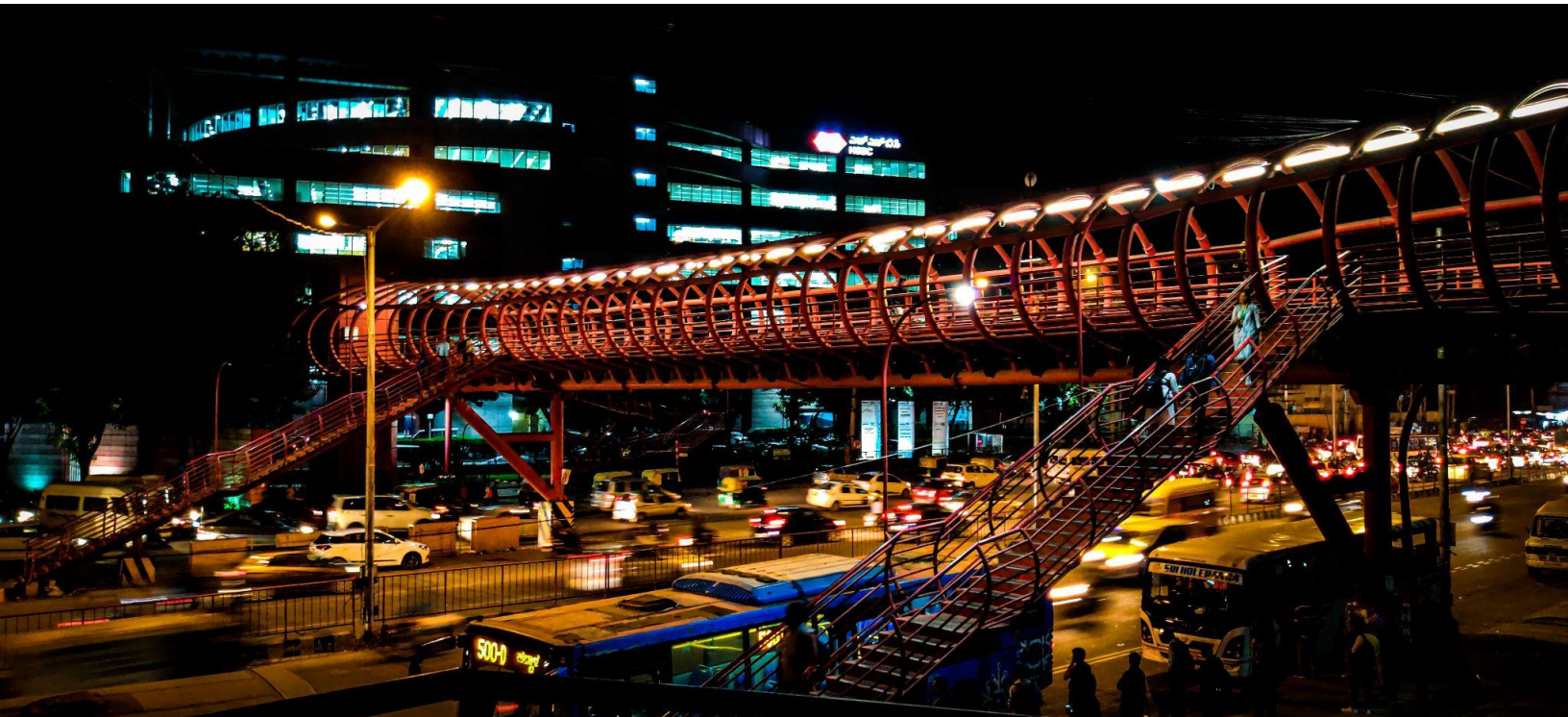
Bengaluru's weather is tranquil year-round. It's a wet and dry climate, with mild winters and warm summers. The mild winters make it ideal for outdoor activities, while the warm summers are generally suitable for relaxing and taking things slow. There are certain months during the year when many festivals come under, which can add an extra layer of liveliness to the city.

Objective

The objective of this guidebook is twofold. One is to help you prepare for your trip by providing helpful information about mobile phone connectivity, health care and getting around. The other objective is to help you acclimatize to the city, navigate the cultural, social and contextual differences that you will encounter during your stay in Bengaluru and provide you with a curated list of activities, restaurants and attractions to visit, handpicked for you by our team at Swissnex in India. So read on to learn more about the charming vibe that Bengaluru has to offer!

[Link](#) to map containing all the recommendations in this document

Good to know - Before arriving in Bengaluru



Let's start with a small introduction to transportation, network connectivity and other utilities essential to get acquainted with before your trip to Bengaluru, India! One thing we ask you to do right away is to keep a dozen passport-sized photos of yourself, as many services require multiple copies of that.

General pointers

- Please keep in mind that as a visitor arriving in India, you are not allowed to carry any amount of Indian Rupees (INR) with you. You may take with you other currencies such as USD or CHF and then exchange them for INR
- Smoking is banned in most public places unless it's in a designated smoking zone. E-cigarettes are also prohibited, and you are not allowed to bring them inside the country.
- We recommend you go through your Bank transaction and withdrawal fees in India and consider whether you need to open a bank account based on the length of your stay. Foreign tourists can open a Non-Resident External account for a maximum of 6 months.

Network connectivity

Many network providers in India provide excellent coverage and have got you covered no matter where you go. Staying connected in India can seem daunting at first but is a pretty simple and straightforward task. All you need is a mobile phone, and you're set to go!

Mobile Connectivity

Airtel, Jio and Vodafone are some of the best mobile connectivity providers in Bengaluru who strive to keep you connected no matter where you are. There are many prepaid and postpaid options to choose from. However, we recommend opting for a prepaid mobile package, especially if you're here for a short period, as postpaid packages require you to link your FRRO (Foreign Regional Registration Office) documents and address proof, bank details and more.

Documents Required: Photocopy of your Passport, photocopy of your visa, passport-sized photographs and an Address proof (ex: Hotel booking)

Getting a sim card at the Bengaluru airport

One of the best and most convenient ways to obtain a SIM card in India is to purchase it at the airport as soon as you land. It's a simple and easy process, and the counter to buy it is right next to the baggage claim in the arrival hall.

Getting a sim card at a store

It is possible to purchase a SIM card at any store in the locality that you're staying in. The process is similar to obtaining it at the airport. It just adds another layer of difficulty, wherein you might have to make multiple trips to the store, once to purchase the sim card and again to activate it.

Wi-fi Connectivity

Multiple places in Bengaluru offer free wi-fi, and wi-fi, in general, isn't a problem when you've got a network service provider. Most mobile service providers also serve as Internet Service Providers (ISP), making it all the more convenient to look at suitable plans for you when purchasing a SIM card. Wi-fi Dongles are also offered at the airport's arrival hall, giving you the chance to be connected on the go!

Travel

Local transportation

Public transport

Buses and metro lines are essential modes of transportation and offer an affordable means of getting around the city. However, they are a bit harder to navigate as destinations are not always written in English, and they tend to get stuck in traffic, making travel time unpredictable. In general, buses are divided into Non-AC and AC buses, the latter being slightly more expensive but also more reliable and easier to use for foreigners.

Click [here](#) for information on the bus routes and timings, and [here](#) to access the official website of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation.

The metro mode of transportation has two lines, green and purple. Both offer connectivity to the city's North, South and West regions. The Swissnex office is walking distance from the Metro stop 'Mahatma Gandhi road', three stops from the vibrant bar, restaurant and shopping area Indiranagar.

You can find more information on the metro network, tickets and timings [here](#).

Private transport

Private transportation such as taxis and auto-rickshaws are reliable and can connect you to every nook and corner in Bengaluru. Uber and Ola are ride-hailing apps present in every major Indian city. They both have an option to hail autos for a more inexpensive method of transportation. You can opt for payment in cash via any of the digital payment apps in India or by connecting a credit card to the app.

Getting an auto-rickshaw without an app requires good negotiation skills. At busy places, rickshaw drivers tend to approach you and offer you a ride at 3-5 times the regular price. To gauge how much you should be paying, look up the distance on google maps; currently, the charge should be at 17 INR per km, and by law, rickshaw drivers are mandated to put on the meter when having a customer.

Sometimes, a driver will offer you a seemingly good deal, and as soon as you hop in, they will tell you that you need to spend a few minutes in a specific store, after which the drive continues. This happens as drivers tend to get petrol or commission from these stores, which is usually not dangerous but takes some of your time.

Healthcare

India's metro cities are well serviced by a range of high-quality hospitals with state-of-the-art care and experienced doctors.

Swissnex in India works with a trusted physician, Dr Ravi, who will be able to make the first assessments and necessary referrals. His practice is located less than a kilometre away from the Swissnex office. You can, of course, also choose any other doctor you would like to approach.

Please note that hospitals in India require upfront treatment payment if you don't have a health insurance plan. Payments can usually be made in cash via any Indian payment app or credit/debit cards. We suggest familiarizing yourself with your travel and health insurance reimbursement policies before your departure.

Regarding health insurance, we recommend you ensure your Swiss insurance is extended to cover your medical bills in India, especially if you're staying here on a short-term basis. Getting a health insurance policy in India is recommended for long-term stays.

We also suggest you familiarize yourself extensively with the insurance policies and benefits offered in Indian health insurance. For instance, Indian Health insurance plans do not cover any Outpatient Department (OPDs) treatments and doctor visits, meaning your health insurance will only cover you if you have stayed for at least 24h in a hospital.

Useful Mobile applications

Here are a few useful mobile applications that offer a significant boost in convenience when living in this fast-paced digital city.

Digital Payment

We recommend connecting your bank account to one of these digital payment platforms as most services in Bengaluru offer digital payment options, and carrying cash is unnecessary.

- Google Pay
- PayTM

Dining

- Swiggy (Order in)
- Zomato (Restaurant recommendations/order in)

Travel

- [Ola](#) (Ride Hail)
- Uber (Ride Hail)
- [Bounce](#) (Bike/scooter rentals)
- [BMTc Mobile App](#) (Bus routes and schedules)
- Bengaluru Metro - [Android](#) and [IOS](#)

Shopping

- Myntra (fashion)
- Amazon (E-commerce)
- Nature's Basket (groceries, fresh fruits and veggies)

Leisure

- Book My Show (Book tickets to movies/events in the city)

Healthcare

- Practo (General Clinical consultations)

Accommodation recommendations



When it comes to accommodation in Bengaluru, you can be spoiled for choice. This city has a wide selection of luxury hotels, serviced apartments, unique Airbnbs and more! Here are a few that we have tried and would absolutely recommend!

Serviced apartments

- [Hibernest](#)
- [Casa Cottage](#)
- [GoStops](#)
- [Airbnb in Cooke Town](#)
- [Woke Indiranagar](#)
- [Zostel Indiranagar](#)

Developing on the list above, [Hostel World](#) is a great platform to look for other similar properties that offer cost-effective and short/long-term options for all ages!

Luxury hotels

Here are some of your traditional and classic luxury properties in Bengaluru which can allow you to experience the true pinnacle of what Bengaluru has to offer in luxury.

- The Leela Palace
- ITC Gardenia
- Four Seasons Hotel
- Radisson city center
- The Oberoi
- Taj West End
- The Ritz Carlton
- J.W Marriott
- Shangri-La

Restaurants and Eateries



Staples of Bengaluru

Central Tiffin Room (CTR)

CTR is an old Bengaluru eatery home to the best Benne (Butter) Masala Dosa in town. Plus, it's very light on your pocket. Located in a quaint area in Malleswaram, CTR is synonymous with the Benne Masala Dosa. Just being in the vicinity of this restaurant will make you swoon a little with the wafting aroma of melted butter.

Popular dishes - Butter masala dosa, Mangalore bajji

Vidhyarthi Bhavan

Vidhyarthi Bhavan is all about the feeling of being in old-school Bengaluru and surrounded by the colorful stalls of Gandhi Bazaar (South Bengaluru's most famous marketplace). It started as

a small restaurant built to serve the students from the nearby universities. Now, people of all ages come to try their authentic and delicious food, reminding them of the homely flavor of Bengaluru.

Popular dishes - Masala dosa, coffee

Mavalli Tiffin Room (MTR)

Mavalli Tiffin Rooms is a place with a lot of nostalgic value. It's a restaurant many of us used to frequent with our families in our childhood days, and it has grown to be a global brand. However, we still recommend the charming old edifice near Lalbagh, wherein you have to sit in a small room waiting your turn to try a hearty meal served on a banana leaf.

Popular dishes - Masala Dosa, Kesari bath (Sweet Indian dish)

Karavalli

Karavalli restaurant is in a Mangalorean-style bungalow and is surrounded by lush greenery giving it a great ambience. It showcases everything pure about South India's culinary traditions, such as sourcing ingredients from the native regions, in this case - the coast. Expect delicious seafood when visiting this restaurant, served in authentic Mangalorean-style tableware.

Popular dishes - Avial, Mango Curry, Prawn Ghee Roast, Appam

Bheema's

Bheema's is one of those classic restaurants wherein lines of hungry patrons wait outside to try their South-Indian cuisine. And every one of them looks forward to their simple yet lovely vegetarian meal, served on a banana leaf. Finding a seat in this restaurant can sometimes be a hassle, but you can rest assured knowing that you're in good hands when you do.

Popular dishes - vegetarian thali

Vembanad at The Paul

Vembanad is named after the lake that surrounds Cochin in Kerala. The interiors of this elegant space are as sophisticated as the food. It's located in a boutique hotel, the Paul, and has its own floor, featuring planter chairs and wooden accents. The ceiling is reminiscent of the traditional Keralite housing, and their dishes are the closest to what you can expect in the house of a Keralite family, giving a nostalgic feel to it.

Popular dishes - Alleppey Fish Curry with Idiyappam (string hops), Chicken Ghee Roast, Parippu Payasam (Dessert)

Multi-cuisine restaurants of Bengaluru

Farmlore

This 37-acre farm emphasizes sustainable farming practices, eclecticism, locavore traditions, and connecting with Mother Earth. Its menu showcases seasonal and organic fare. The concept is simple: eat organic, stay in tune with Mother Earth, and connect with your culinary roots. And, since food is the focal point, it's worth visiting.

Popular dishes - You only get to choose between veg and non veg . The chef then brings 5 courses for lunch and 10 for dinner.

Burma Burma

The uniqueness and variety of vegetarian food offered at this Burmese restaurant, alongside a tasteful and comfortable interior design, makes it a tranquil place. It has no loud and strangely unsuitable music compared to many other sites in Bengaluru, even though the chatter at peak hours can give it a rather busy feeling. It often has a slight waiting time at peak hours, but the politeness of the staff and the charm of the place make it worth waiting for.

Popular dishes - Mandalay Laphet Thoke, Oh no khowsuey, crunchy tofu Paukse and Kumquat Mojitos

Soo Ra Sang

Soo Ra Sang offers authentic Korean cuisine in an elegant setting. The ambience is very similar to a modern Korean restaurant, consisting of low-rise tables with mini-BBQ grills on their surfaces and a screen that plays the latest K-pop music. Many of its signature main dishes are meat-based, but the side-dish spread accompanying them is vegetarian, making it well-balanced. Their kitchen makes use of organic vegetables, herbs and spices, and traditional methods to prepare them, ensuring you an authentic Korean dining experience.

Popular dishes - Kimbap, Bibimpap, Grilled meats, Kimchi fried rice, Mongolian fried rice

Shiro

A fine dining restaurant specializing in Japanese and Asian cuisine, Shiro is located in UB City. The Japanese name for the restaurant, Shiro, means “Castle” and is a sanctuary for anyone seeking respite. It is adorned with Asian art, a 65-foot ceiling statue, and cascading waterfalls, while its menu includes sushi, dim sum and other signature Japanese food. The restaurant has a lengthy wine list as well as a live sushi counter. And if you’re still feeling extra indulgent, you can order their signature chocolate tiramisu and chocolate mousse desserts.

Popular dishes - Crispy spicy avocado maki, Hibachi rice, Peking Duck, Chicken Yakitori

Nasi and Mee

If you’re craving pan-Asian cuisine, Nasi and Mee is the place to be. This casual, chic restaurant serves up South-East Asian Street food and traditional classics. The interiors are well decorated, with a long glass wall, giving it a more spacious and cosy feeling than many other eateries nearby. Their menu features both traditional favourites and more experimental dishes, such as the Crab Xiao Long Bao, which requires a little ceremony to eat, and the Prawn Hargau, which is a beautiful combination of smooth and crunchy textures.

Popular dishes - Bok Choy, Tofu and Shitake, Pan-fried noodles, Sushi

Bombay Brasserie

Bombay Brasserie is a contemporary brasserie which serves modern interpretations of traditional Indian fare. The decor reflects Bombay’s current design language, and the signature blue shade is a distinctive feature of this restaurant. It serves an eclectic blend of flavours and ingredients, from savoury to sweet. Small plates are paired with unusual, surprising combinations to create a truly memorable experience. Bombay Brasserie will take you on an Indian culinary adventure, whether you are an amateur traveller or a culinary connoisseur.

Popular dishes - Kadak Cutting Chai, Chowpatty Corn Chat, Chatka Choley Kulchey

Sante Spa Cuisine

Bengaluru and India, in general, tend to be a jam-packed and loud experience, so it is sometimes necessary to be able to withdraw and enjoy a peaceful cup of tea in a tranquil setting. And where better to do that than in Sante Spa Cuisine, which serves food that’s like a hug for your belly. It’s got lots of minimal decors and natural lighting, owing to its location inside a bungalow. Their all-vegetarian menu is extensive, with dishes ranging from smoothie bowls to homemade soups and salads to pizzas as well.

Popular dishes - Smoothie bowls

Cafes of Bengaluru

Bistro Claytopia

If you love having burgers with your evening coffee, then Bistro Claytopia is the place to go. This art-themed restaurant is located in the same building as an art studio, so the decor is colorful and fun. You can choose from an array of burgers, grilled cheese sandwiches, pasta dishes, and sweet treats. In addition to being a cafe, this fun place also offers a paint-your-own-pottery studio. It has scores of pre-molded earthen pieces, ranging from simple to tough-to-paint, funny, and whimsical bisque ware, all offering a unique painting experience. Whether you want to make a pottery ornament or simply decorate a coffee cup, you can find it at Bistro Claytopia.

Therpup - The dog cafe

Therpup, the Dog Cafe, is a unique cafe open to humans and their four-legged friends. It features hand-painted murals of dogs and a giant pack of canines to welcome guests. This location has a wide variety of food for dogs and offers treats that even the hungriest human can't resist. The staff at the Therpup are certified dog trainers, with a few volunteers that help run the cafe. The staff also help the local stray dogs by providing shelter and food, which makes it a more genuine place, not only for you but also for your furry friends.

Araku coffee

If you're looking for a unique blend of coffee to try, Araku coffee is the right place for you. There are two individual coffee stations - the Sensory Bar, where you can try out manual brews made using the French Press, and the Trad Bar, which has a more traditional espresso machine. The cafe also offers a variety of Asian-inspired dishes and has an exciting bookstore. You can enjoy a delicious cup of coffee while learning about the culture and traditions of Adivasi farming, which is the farming practice that takes place while harvesting coffee beans in the ancient terroirs of the Araku valley in the Eastern Ghats.

Resto-bars of Bengaluru

Toit Brewpub

If you're in the mood for some good local beer in Bengaluru, then Toit Brewpub should be on your list. This brick-walled microbrewery offers craft beer, along with hearty pub grub. The pub's interior design aims to evoke the classic Bengaluru pub feel of the eighties and nineties. They have a resounding fan base, as its signature beers are Irish and European. And for those

interested in the brewing process, there's even a brewery tour! And the cherry on top is that it's also affordable enough for everyone.

Windmills Craftworks

Windmills Craftworks, a craft brewery in the heart of the city, has everything you need to create a unique, quality brewery experience. The Terrace at Windmills Craftworks Bengaluru, their fantastic restaurant, offers a delicious buffet and a cosy, relaxed atmosphere while serving international cuisine. Some of their iconic drinks and dishes are imported, such as the Scottish Malt, German pork ribs and salmon, and New Zealand lamb, allowing you to satisfy your taste for exotic things.

RCB Bar & Cafe

A confluence of a bar and a restaurant, RCB Bar & Cafe offers a unique dining experience. The menu offers a wide variety of dishes and is complemented by a complete list of artisan cocktails. It is a hip hangout that combines a sports frenzy and a modern setting, wherein guests can enjoy live performances while watching cricket matches. It derives its name from the local cricket team in Bengaluru, called Royal Challengers Bengaluru, thereby giving it its reputation as a hotspot for sports fans, celebrities, and local residents alike.

Bob's Bar

Most bars in Bengaluru offer a variety of dishes to choose from while you have your drink, but none as unique as Bob's bar. They offer traditional South Indian dishes, which is pretty rare for a Resto-bar in Bengaluru. Their eclectic menu crosses the state like a map, from traditional Malnad dishes to soup from military-style hotels all around Karnataka. There's also a section of South Indian specialities, such as the avare kaalu usseli, a dish from old Bengaluru. Even the decor and furnishings are reminiscent of the Bengaluru clubs that were popular decades ago.

Dessert & Sweet shops of Bengaluru

Corner House

Corner house is one of Bengaluru's popular ice-cream chains, especially famous for its Death By Chocolate dessert, which stands true to its name. This establishment's fans have several choices, ranging from mint chocolate to sea salt caramel. The only catch is that king-size portions aren't available here, so it's a good idea to order a few different things to keep you satisfied until you come back for more!

Smoor chocolates signature lounge

Smoor Chocolates' signature lounge in Indiranagar features over 80 seats in a beautiful and spacious setting. Chocolates make the perfect gift no matter the occasion, and there's always

something different and unique to choose from here. You'll find authentic chocolates made by master chocolatiers, accompanied by a wide range of confectionaries, exotic hampers, and even cookies!

Lavonne cafe

If you're looking for a small, cozy cafe that serves a range of delicious pastries and desserts, Lavonne cafe in Indiranagar is an excellent option. The cafe is right next to the Lavonne Academy of baking sciences and pastry arts, which trains students in the art of baking and exquisite creative pastries. This fact alone can put you at ease, knowing that you're tasting the meticulously crafted pastries carefully made by passionate young people.

O.G. Variar & Sons

A small bakery started by a teenage baker from Kerala in the 1950s, OG Varier & Sons have since expanded all over the city. Its delicious baked goods have won people of all ethnicities over for decades. If you're in the mood for something sweet, the bakery offers a range of mouth-watering pastries. It has several outlets in Bengaluru, including the original and renowned branch in Rajajinagar.

[Link](#) to a more exhaustive list of restaurant recommendations

Activity list



Area 83

Area 83 is a premier adventure sports resort in Bengaluru, known for its curated adventure activities. The resort's team, bursting with youthful ability, is highly proficient, eager, and enthusiastic and delivers on its promises. From rock climbing to bungee jumping, and from bubble soccer to kayaking, there's always something to ensure that you'll be in for a thrilling time.

Karnataka Chitrakala Parishat

A quaint and green nook for an art gallery tour, purchasing artwork or exploring seasonal flea markets, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishat has handpicked art and craft from all over the country. The art gallery houses permanent art collections from Russian artist Roerich to traditional Mysore paintings - reflecting various perspectives of the local space and culture, and has historically been a hub of artists, art historians, critics, restorers, curators and more from the community. The seasonal flea markets outdoors of the campus are also full of surprising

discoveries for anyone interested in locally crafted pieces, from textile art to sculpted home decor.

Ranga Shankara

Ranga Shankara is a theatre that was built in the memory of the late Shankar Nag, a renowned television film personality from India. It's located in the JP Nagar neighborhood and is the definitive center for traditional plays and dramas in Bengaluru. It is also a cultural hub that hosts many artists with state-of-the-art equipment and plays over 400 shows annually. The annual art festival "Vasundhara", a celebration of art, culture and tradition, is also hosted in this theatre.

Gamingalaxy

Gamingalaxy Bengaluru is a new entertainment complex in the Whitefield district of Bengaluru. Known as a gamer's paradise, it features a variety of games, including laser tag, escape rooms, and more. Their virtual escape rooms also serve as a great icebreaker among remote teams. Coming here implies an exciting afternoon with friends, as it challenges people to communicate with each other and solve puzzles while having fun.

Angsana Oasis Spa - UB City

Angsana Spa UB City, located in the heart of the cosmopolitan city of Bengaluru, is known for its rejuvenating treatments and relaxing atmosphere. It offers authentic Thai massages, which focus on the intuitive art of touch. You know you're in good hands when the therapists here are required to complete over 350 hours of training at the Banyan Tree Spa Academy. So if you want to pamper and splurge a little, this is the place for you.

The Courtyard community space

The Courtyard community space in Bengaluru is a cultural project emphasizing rooting creative cultural communities in the space. Over the years, the space has hosted a community of artists, filmmakers, poets, architects and others, and it continues to do so. The exterior has been beautifully restored to retain the historic character of the building. So, if you're ever looking to socialize and learn something new, many events happen here in this modern community space that deserves a look.

Kadu Mallikarjuna Swamy temple

The Kadu Mallikarjuna Swamy temple is by far one of the oldest temples in Bengaluru. This temple also hosts inscription records on Bengaluru's history, dating back to the 17th century. A popular aspect of this temple is that the legend says that the main idol here is said to have manifested itself without anyone sculpting it. It's a quiet and straightforward temple, surrounded by a quaint and tranquil garden, making it an island of calm in the busy Malleshwaram area.

Aashrey getaway

Aashrey Getaway is one of the most luxurious retreats in Bengaluru, which is surrounded by lush vegetation, a major dam and walking trails. It has the ideal backdrop for escaping the city's busy life while retaining India's warmth. This resort blends traditional south Indian architecture with modern facilities and services. It is generally a genuinely cozy and heartwarming retreat to be enjoyed with family or friends.

Must-see landmarks of Bengaluru



Bengaluru Palace

Built over a century ago on the land of a British educationist, Bengaluru Palace has an uncanny resemblance to England's Windsor Castle. Various additions have been made to it over time, but the Tudor-style architecture design is still the first thing to be noticed. The palace comprises fortified arches, towers, green lawns, and sophisticated interior wood carvings, making it one of the most touristy places in Bengaluru.

Lalbagh Botanical garden

Located at the city's western end, the Lalbagh botanical garden is a quaint sensory experience. First established in 1760 by Hyder Ali, it is home to various plants, including rare and exotic species. The Garden also features the famous glasshouse, which is modeled on the Crystal Palace in London. Whether it's for a small family picnic or a walk alone outdoors, Lalbagh provides a picturesque way to connect with nature.

Nandi hills

One of the most popular viewpoints in Bengaluru, Nandi is a beautiful retreat that's popular with locals and tourists alike. It is known for its better landscape, weather and especially for its exceptional sunrises. Cyclers and hikers are common here, and it also offers other activities such as paragliding and a wine tour. Even though it's located 60kms away from the city, it's a great spot worth visiting, especially during early mornings!

Cubbon park

Constructed in the 1870s by then chief engineer of British-occupied Bengaluru, Cubbon park is spread out over 300 acres of land. It is Bengaluru's green lungs, due to its immense size and diverse ecosystem. You can find all sorts of people here, including cyclists, skaters and frisbee players, and given the general Indian attitude, everyone is welcome to join whichever activity at any point in time.

National gallery of modern art

The National Gallery of Modern art in Bengaluru is an art gallery, which was converted from a private residence in 2009. And that's not the only unique thing about it. It is one of four National Art Galleries in India, and houses over 500 pieces of art in its collection. The works of popular artists such as Rabindranath Tagore, Jamini Roy and others make this place a must-visit for any art lover out there

Vidhan Soudha

India's largest legislature/office building, Vidhana Soudha is a popular landmark in the Garden city. Its foundation stone was laid first by India's first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru and was finally completed in 1956. It was the brainchild of the state's second chief minister, who took great pride in having it reflect the power and dignity of the people, symbolizing the end of the British era in India.

Commercial Street

Known to be a shopper's paradise, Commercial Street is located in the Central Business District of Bengaluru. It brings a unique charm with its plethora of small-scale shops, thrift stores, as well as high-end boutiques. This long street is lined with stores that cater not only to budget shoppers but also to those looking for a lavish experience. And whenever you feel like you need a break, there are many eateries and small restaurants to choose from.

ISKCON temple

The ISKCON Temple in Rajajinagar, Bengaluru, is the largest of its kind in India, offering a magnificent blend of modernity and spirituality. Dedicated to the worship of Lord Krishna, this temple also happens to be a cultural complex rather than just a place of worship. It is quite famous for its active involvement in social causes and is a tranquil place to rediscover one's spirituality and foster growth.

Bannerghatta National park

Located a couple of kilometers on the outskirts of Bengaluru is the Bannerghatta National Park which is home to a large variety of flora and fauna of South India. It is known for its elephants, which make their annual migration from the Eastern Ghats to the Western Ghats, an event that makes it one of India's most prominent wildlife attractions. There are many smaller attractions here to learn from, such as the butterfly conservatory, an aquarium and even a tiger safari!

UB City

For those of you who seek high-end brands and wish to indulge in some luxury shopping, head to the UB City Mall. From high-end shopping of clothes to ultra-fine dining, this mall offers extensive options to keep yourself entertained and content. Louis Vuitton, Rolex, Burberry, Jimmy Choo, Estee Lauder, and Canali are a few of the top brands that this mall has to offer. It is the top Bengaluru point of interest for those seeking to get some retail therapy.

A few suggestions from the team



Avoid using your left hand when handing money/things

It is considered inauspicious to be handing things with your left hand, as the right hand is considered sacred. However, no one will get upset if your right hand is full, or if you're physically unable to do that

Be mindful of terming other people as unprofessional when they're late

Traffic conditions in India are unpredictable and Bengaluru is known for having one of the worst traffic conditions in India. And so, this cannot be pinned as general behavior or a lack of professionalism

Be prepared to accommodate last-minute changes

Building on the previous point and as well as considering the iterative approach most Indians have, it is important to note that there might be last-minute changes that you would have to get accustomed to

Be mindful when consuming street food

Street food in Bengaluru can be exceptionally tasty and offers a variety of options. However, they can sometimes lead to food poisoning, especially if you're not used to consuming street food. So, we recommend only consuming piping hot food that is cooked right in front of you

Avoid participating in protests

We are aware that certain movements like the farmers protest may speak to your heart and you may want to contribute to these movements. But we recommend you to not participate in any form of protests as it might have repercussions on your visa.

Sources

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